

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 5, 2005. Claims 1 to 14 are in the application, of which Claims 1, 7 and 13 are independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent 5,864,684 (Nielsen). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested, for the reasons set out below.

The invention is directed to a communication apparatus in which plural kinds of communication partner information can be registered for each of multiple communication partners. For example, as shown in one representative embodiment of the invention described in connection with Figures 6 and 7, a communication apparatus of the present invention detects identifiers in a received e-mail and if a predetermined identifier is detected such as a <name> identifier, an index number is specified in order to permit registration of information corresponding to detected identifiers. Based on the index number, plural kinds of communication partner information can be registered, such as telephone numbers and e-mail addresses.

In addition, if a plurality of predetermined identifiers are detected in the same e-mail, the apparatus described in Figures 6 and 7 repeatedly assigns a new index number and registers information which is associated with the same predetermined identifier. It is thus one feature of the invention that plural kinds of communication partner

information can be stored, for each of plural communication partners, even if all such information is received in a single e-mail message.

As set out in the claims herein, a detection is made for a plurality of identifiers corresponding to plural kinds of communication partner information from a received e-mail. When there is a detection of a predetermined identifier from among the plurality of identifiers, a communication partner information is specified for registration. Information associated with the detected identifiers is registered as communication partner information for the specified communication partner information. If a plurality of predetermined identifiers are detected in the received e-mail, a communication partner information is specified for each one of the predetermined identifiers, and in turn information is registered associated with the detected identifiers.

The applied Nielsen patent is not seen to disclose or to suggest the foregoing arrangement. Nielsen is seen to disclose registration of a subscriber for a distribution list by sending an "add" command and an e-mail address to a listserver, which is responsible for managing the distribution list. According to Applicant's understanding of the Office Action, it seems that the "add" command of Nielsen has been equated to the identifier of the present invention. However, Applicant considers that these are completely different in nature. For example, the identifiers of the present invention are for identifying information described in the received e-mail, and in particular for detection of whether these identifiers correspond to the plural kinds of communication partner information. Thus, in the present invention, every communication partner information can contain plural kinds of information, and therefore such identifiers serve the purpose of differentiating

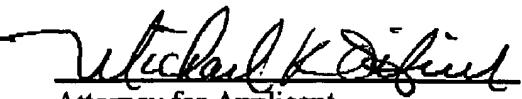
between them. Moreover, a specific identifier (such as the aforementioned <name> identifier) may be used like a delimiter of communication partner information. Information corresponding to identifiers, including the specific identifier and other kinds of identifiers, may be registered to the same communication partner information.

Nielsen, on the other hand, to the extent it discloses anything pertinent to the invention, only discloses registration of one e-mail address for one distribution list. There is no suggestion in Nielsen for registration of plural kinds of information for one distribution list, and there is no suggestion in Nielsen as to how to identify a kind of information described in e-mail. Nielsen also does not disclose or suggest use of a single e-mail to register a plurality of distribution lists.

It is therefore believed that the claims herein recite subject matter patentable over Nielsen or anything fairly suggested by Nielsen, and allowance of the claims is therefore respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

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